

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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P R 151100Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2161
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL MUNICH PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1850

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, RO
SUBJ: STATUS OF ROMANIAN DISSIDENTS
REF: STATE 47596 (NOTAL); BUCHAREST 1633

1. SUMMARY. AFTER NUMEROUS INTERVIEWS WITH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IN BUCHAREST COVERING EARTHQUAKE, ROMANIAN DISSIDENT AUTHOR PAUL GOMA HAS AGAIN MET WITH RCP PARTY SECRETARY BURTICA, WHO WHILE MAKING NO THREATS, EXPRESSED MUCH DISSATISFACTION OVER GOMA'S CONTINUED CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU. GOMA HAS TOLD SEVERAL NEWSMEN HE HAS "PROOF" THAT SOME INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN CONSIGNED TO PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTIONS BECAUSE OF THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS. SIGNATORIES TO MANIFESTO CONTINUE TO RISE AND WE HAVE SOME EVIDENCE OF AT LEAST AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION INVOLVING GOMA AND OTHER ROMANIAN INTELLECTUALS. END SUMMARY.

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2. MANY OF WESTERN JOURNALISTS COVERING BUCHAREST EARTHQUAKE HAVE ALSO MADE ALMOST OBLIGATORY PILGRIMAGE TO BUCHAREST'S DRUMUL TABEREI SECTOR TO INTERVIEW DISSIDENT AUTHOR PAUL GOMA. WITH ONE OR TWO EXCEPTIONS (E.G. WE UNDERSTAND A CBS CREW WAS HARASSED, BUT ALLOWED TO ENTER) THEY SEEMED TO ENJOY COMPLETE FREEDOM OF

ACCESS. WE HAVE HEARD UNVERIFIED STORY THAT ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE GONE SO FAR AS TO BLACK OUT NUMBER IDENTIFYING GOMA'S APARTMENT BLOC IN ATTEMPT TO CONFUSE HIS MANY VISITORS.

3. GOMA HAS APPARENTLY TOLD MORE THAN A FEW JOURNALISTS THAT HE HAS "PROOF" THAT AT LEAST FOUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN PSYCHIATRIC WARDS BECAUSE OF THEIR POLITICAL BELIEFS. IN ADDITION HE CLAIMS OTHERS HAVE BEEN ROUNDED UP AND DETAINED IN INSTITUTIONS FOR SHORT PERIODS OF TIME, E.G., DURATION OF FORD OR BREZHNEV VISIT. (COMMENT: WHEN QUERIED AS TO VALIDITY OF THESE REPORTS BY INDIVIDUAL REPORTERS EMBASSY HAS NOTED OFF RECORD THAT IT ALSO HAS OCCASIONALLY HEARD SUCH STORIES, BUT THAT NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED SEEMS SMALL, THEIR DETENTION LIMITED AND PRACTICE HERE DOES NOT SEEM COMPARABLE TO THAT IN SOVIET UNION.)

4. GOMA HAS AGAIN MET WITH PARTY SECRETARY CORNEL BURTICA. DURING A MARCH 12 MEETING BURTICA APPARENTLY BERATED GOMA FOR HIS CONTINUED CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU (BUCHAREST 1134). (COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO THAT SENT REFTEL, GOMA PENNED ANOTHER LETTER TO CEAUSESCU ON MARCH 1 WARNING OF DANGER OF POLICE STATE AND URGING PRESIDENT TO CHANGE HIS INTERNAL POLICY SO AS TO BETTER REFLECT HIS FOREIGN POLICY.) MEETING WAS SOME 75 MINUTES LONG AND AGAIN ARRANGED BY FELLOW AUTHOR NICOLAE BREBAN. GOMA REPORTEDLY LEFT MEETING WITHOUT REAL SENSE OF WHAT ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES WANTED FROM HIM. CONFIDENTIAL

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5. NUMBER OF SIGNATORIES ON GOMA'S MANIFESTO HAS NOW RISEN TO 126, ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT SURE HOW MANY OF THESE ARE ON PAPER OR RECEIVED VIA TELEPHONE. MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO SIGN CONTINUE TO DO SO BECAUSE THEY WISH TO LEAVE COUNTRY. IN ANOTHER DECLARATION WRITTEN MARCH 1 IN WHICH GOMA DESCRIBES HIS FIRST MEETING WITH BURTICA, HE ALSO NOTES HIS DILEMMA, I.E. " THAT OUR CURRENT ACTION HAS DEGENERATED INTO A TYPE OF EMIGRATION AGENCY."

6. MOST INTERESTING RECENT DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN REPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM SEVERAL SOURCES THAT WELL KNOWN LITERARY CRITIC ION NEGOTESCU PAID VISIT TO GOMA SHORTLY BEFORE EARTHQUAKE STRUCK AND DELIVERED TEN-PAGE DOCUMENT PUT TOGETHER BY HIMSELF AND SEVERAL OTHER ROMANIAN INTELLECTUALS WHICH DETAILED STAGNATION AND PLIGHT OF ROMANIAN INTELLECTUAL LIFE. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, NO ONE SIGNED ANYTHING, BUT INFORMATION

WAS EXCHANGED.

7. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF RENEWED PUBLICITY GOMA IS
SURE TO RECEIVE AS RESULT OF HIS JOURNALISTIC VISITORS,
MARCH 4 EARTHQUAKE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY COMPLICATE HIS
TASK. FOR SEVERAL DAYS THEREAFTER HE WAS REPORTEDLY RELUCTANT
TO VENTURE OUT OF APARTMENT FOR FEAR OF WAYWARD BRICK
PERHAPS DESTINED ONLY FOR HIM. MORE DIFFICULT STILL,
HOWEVER, IS HOW TO COPE WITH CHARGE WITH WHICH ROMANIAN
AUTHORITIES WILL CERTAINLY ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT HIM
IF HE GOES TOO PUBLIC, I.E., THE ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE
THE COUNTRY IN A TIME OF CRISIS AND NEED FOR UNITY.
BARNES

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